

CLAIMS

1. An image output system comprising:
 - an image source unit;
 - 5 an image output unit; and
 - a communication interface for connecting said image source unit and said image output unit,
 - said image source unit having:
 - an operation unit for issuing an image output
 - 10 instruction;
 - request command generation means being responsive to the image output instruction for generating a request command for requesting said image output unit to perform image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting;
 - 15 request command transmission means for transmitting the request command through said communication interface to said image output unit;
 - data storage for storing a resource file used for said image output unit to perform the image output operation; and
 - 20 slave communication means for accessing the resource file in the data storage as controlled in a slave manner by said image output unit, and
 - said image output unit having:
 - request command reception means for receiving the
 - 25 request command through said communication interface from said

image source unit;

resource file acquisition means for acquiring the resource file through said communication interface from said image source unit by controlling the slave communication means;

5 and

control means for controlling the image output operation based on the received request file and the acquired resource file.

10 2. An image output system comprising:

an image source unit;

an image output unit; and

a communication interface for connecting said image source unit and said image output unit,

15 said image source unit having:

request command generation means for generating a request command for requesting said image output unit to perform image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting; and

20 resource file creation means for creating a resource file used for said image output unit to perform the image output operation, and

said image output unit having:

request command reception means for receiving the
25 request command through said communication interface from said

image source unit;

resource file acquisition means for acquiring the resource file through said communication interface from said image source unit; and

5 control means for controlling the image output operation based on the received request file and the acquired resource file.

3. An image output method comprising steps of:

10 connecting an image source unit and an image output unit through a communication interface;

in the image source unit, generating a request command for requesting the image output unit to perform image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting;

15 in the image source unit, creating a resource file used for the image output unit to perform the image output operation;

in the image output unit, receiving the request command through the communication interface from the image source unit;

20 in the image output unit, acquiring the resource file through the communication interface from the image source unit; and

in the image output unit, controlling the image output operation based on the received request file and the acquired resource file.

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4. An image source unit being connected to an image output unit through a communication interface, comprising:

request command generation means for generating a request command for requesting the image output unit to perform
5 image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting;

resource file creation means for creating a resource file used for the image output unit to perform the image output operation; and

10 data storage for storing the resource file.

5. An image source unit according to claim 4 wherein

the request command is transmitted to the image output unit through the communication interface in response to an
15 inquiry issued from the image output unit, and wherein

the resource file is transmitted to the image output unit through the communication interface in response to a request issued from the image output unit.

20 6. An image source unit according to claim 4 further comprising an operation unit for issuing an image output instruction, wherein

the request command is generated in response to the image output instruction.

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7. An information processing method executed in an image source unit connected to an image output unit through a communication interface, said method comprising steps of:

generating a request command for requesting the image output unit to perform image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting;

creating a resource file used for the image output unit to perform the image output operation; and

storing the created resource file in data storage.

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8. An information processing method according to claim 7 further comprising steps of:

transmitting the request command to the image output unit through the communication interface in response to an inquiry issued from the image output unit; and

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transmitting the resource file to the image output unit through the communication interface in response to a request issued from the image output unit.

20 9. An information processing method according to claim 7 further comprising the step of issuing an image output instruction as an operation unit is operated, wherein the request command is generated in response to the image output instruction.

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10. An image output unit being connected to an image source unit through a communication interface, comprising:

request command reception means for receiving a request command for requesting the image output unit to perform image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting through the communication interface from the image source unit;

resource file acquisition means for acquiring a resource file used for the image output unit to perform the image output operation through the communication interface from the image source unit; and

control means for controlling the image output operation based on the received request file and the acquired resource file.

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11. An information processing method executed in an image output unit connected to an image source unit through a communication interface, said method comprising steps of:

checking whether or not a request command for requesting the image output unit to perform image output operation based on predetermined output condition setting is generated in the image source unit;

when it is checked that the request command is generated, receiving the request command through the communication interface from the image source unit;

acquiring a resource file used for the image output unit
to perform the image output operation through the communication
interface from the image source unit; and

controlling the image output operation based on the
5 received request file and the acquired resource file.

12. A data communication system comprising:

a master unit;

a slave unit; and

10 a communication interface for connecting said master
unit and said slave unit,

said slave unit having request command generation
means for generating a request command for requesting said
master unit to perform predetermined operation based on
15 predetermined operation condition setting,

said master unit having inquiry command transmission
means for periodically transmitting an inquiry command through
said communication interface to said slave unit,

said slave unit having request command transmission
20 means for transmitting the request command through said
communication interface to said master unit if the request
command is generated when the inquiry command is received,

said master unit having:

request command reception means for receiving the
25 request command through said communication interface from said

slave unit; and

control means for controlling the predetermined operation based on the received request file.

5 13. An information processing method comprising steps of:
connecting a master unit and a slave unit through a communication interface,

in the slave unit, generating a request command for requesting the master unit to perform predetermined operation
10 based on predetermined operation condition setting,

in the master unit, periodically transmitting an inquiry command through the communication interface to the slave unit,

in the slave unit, transmitting the request command through the communication interface to the master unit if the
15 request command is generated when the inquiry command is received,

in the master unit, receiving the request command through the communication interface from the slave unit; and

in the master unit, controlling the predetermined
20 operation based on the received request file.

14. An information processing method according to claim 13 further comprising steps of:

in the slave unit, creating a resource file used for the
25 master unit to perform the predetermined operation;

in the slave unit, storing the created resource file in data storage; and

in the master unit, acquiring the resource file through the communication interface from the slave unit, wherein

5 the predetermined operation is controlled based on the received request file and the acquired resource file.

15. A slave unit being connected to a master unit through a communication interface, comprising:

10 request command generation means for generating a request command for requesting the master unit to perform predetermined operation based on predetermined operation condition setting; and

15 request command transmission means for transmitting the request command to the master unit through the communication interface in response to an inquiry issued from the master unit.

16. A slave unit according to claim 15 further comprising:

20 resource file creation means for creating a resource file used for the master unit to perform the predetermined operation;

data storage for storing the created resource file; and

25 resource file transmission means for transmitting the resource file to the master unit through the communication interface in response to a request issued from the master unit.

17. A slave unit according to claim 15 further comprising:
an operation unit for issuing an operation instruction,
wherein

5 the request command is generated in response to the
operation instruction.

18. An information processing method executed in a slave unit
being connected to a master unit through a communication
10 interface, said method comprising steps of:

generating a request command for requesting the master
unit to perform predetermined operation based on predetermined
operation condition setting; and

transmitting the request command to the master unit
15 through the communication interface in response to an inquiry
issued from the master unit.

19. An information processing method according to claim 18
further comprising steps of:

20 creating a resource file used for the master unit to
perform the predetermined operation;

storing the created resource file in data storage; and

transmitting the resource file to the master unit through
the communication interface in response to a request issued
25 from the master unit.

20. An information processing method according to claim 18 further comprising step of:

issuing an operation instruction as an operation unit
5 is operated, wherein

the request command is generated in response to the operation instruction.

21. A master unit being connected to a slave unit through
10 a communication interface, comprising:

inquiry command transmission means for periodically transmitting an inquiry command through the communication interface to the slave unit,

request command reception means for receiving a request
15 command for requesting the master unit to perform predetermined operation based on predetermined operation condition setting through the communication interface from the slave unit; and

control means for controlling the predetermined operation based on the received request file.

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22. A master unit according to claim 21 further comprising:

resource file acquisition means for acquiring a resource file used for the master unit to perform the predetermined operation through the communication interface from the slave

25 unit, wherein

said control means controls the predetermined operation based on the received request file and the acquired resource file.

5 23. An information processing method executed in a master unit connected to a slave unit through a communication interface, said method comprising steps of:

periodically transmitting an inquiry command for checking whether or not a request command for requesting the
10 master unit to perform predetermined operation based on predetermined operation condition setting is generated in the slave unit through the communication interface to the slave unit;

when it is checked that the request command is generated,
15 receiving the request command through the communication interface from the slave unit; and

controlling the predetermined operation based on the received request file.

20 24. An information processing method according to claim 23 further comprising step of:

acquiring a resource file used for the master unit to perform the predetermined operation through the communication interface from the slave unit, wherein

25 the predetermined operation is controlled based on the

received request file and the acquired resource file.

25. An information processing method according to claim 18 wherein

5 the slave unit includes a digital camera and the master unit includes a digital printer.

26. An information processing method according to claim 18 wherein

10 the inquiry command is periodically transmitted from a USB host controller in the master unit, and wherein

when the inquiry command is received, if the request command is generated, a storage class USB device controller in the slave unit transmits the request command.

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27. An information processing method according to claim 18 further comprising step of:

storing the generated request command in data storage in a predetermined file format by a storage class USB device controller, wherein

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a USB host controller in the master unit periodically checks whether or not the read request command is stored in the data storage.

25 28. An information processing method according to claim 20

further comprising the step of:

displaying the operation condition setting on a display panel in response to the operation instruction.

5 29. An information processing method according to claim 18, wherein

the resource file includes an image file in a general-purpose format including a JPEG format, said method further comprising the step of:

10 converting an image file in the general-purpose format into a data format dependent on the master unit.

30. An information processing method according to claim 23 wherein

15 the slave unit includes a digital camera and the master unit includes a digital printer.

31. An information processing method according to claim 23 wherein

20 the inquiry command is periodically transmitted from a USB host controller in the master unit, and wherein

when the inquiry command is received, if the request command is generated, a storage class USB device controller in the slave unit transmits the request command.

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32. An information processing method according to claim 23,
wherein

the generated request command is stored in data storage
in a predetermined file format by a storage class USB device
5 controller, said method further comprising the step of:

periodically controlling the slave unit by a USB host
controller so as to check whether or not the read request
command is stored in the data storage.

10 33. An information processing method according to claim 23
wherein

the operation condition setting is described in either
the request command or the resource file.

15 34. An information processing method according to claim 23,
wherein

the resource file includes an image file in a
general-purpose format including a JPEG format, said method
further comprising the step of:

20 converting an image file in the general-purpose format
into a data format dependent on the master unit.

35. An information processing method according to claim 23
wherein

25 the resource file is acquired at the timing dependent

on the condition of the master unit.